

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 JUSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 /065 W

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11148

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED PROBE PROGRESSES

REF: TOKYO 10783, 10403

SUMMARY: DESPITE ACTIVITY IN SEVERAL SPHERES THIS WEEK, THERE WERE NO MAJOR REVELATIONS IN JAPAN'S LOCKHEED PROBE. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THIS PAUSE IN THE MOVEMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS IS TEMPORARY AND WE EXPECT THE PACE TO RESUME SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS WEEK TWO JUDGES FROM JAPAN'S SUPREME COURT WENT TO LOS ANGELES FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FERGUSON ON THE GUARANTEE OF IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION WHICH FERGUSON SAID JAPAN MUST ISSUE BEFORE THREE LOCKHEED OFFICIALS TESTIFY ON THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE BRIBERY SCANDAL. ON RETURNING THE TWO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE TALKS AND THE SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCED IT WILL ISSUE ITS GUARANTEE OF IMMUNITY ON JULY 24.

2. POLICE ARRESTED THREE MINOR MARUBENI EMPLOYEES THIS WEEK ON CHARGES OF DESTROYING EVIDENCE. THE THREE ARE ACCUSED OF ALTERING RECORDS OF THE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULES AND CAR TRIPS OF MARUBENI

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EXECUTIVES ITOH, HIYAMA AND OKUBO DURING THE 1972-73 PERIOD IN

WHICH THE LOCKHEED BRIBE MONEY WAS SUPPOSEDLY DISTRIBUTED.

3. IN THE DIET LOWER HOUSE SPECIAL LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE THIS WEEK, JSP DIETMEN CHARGED LDP-TANAKA FACTION MEMBERS TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO (FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY AND LDP SECGEN) AND HIDEYO SASAKI (ALSO A FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT) WITH RECEIVING LOCKHEED MONEY. THE JSP SAYS ITS CHARGES STEM FROM INFORMATION IT HAS RECEIVED FROM SPECIAL SOURCES. TWO WEEKLY MAGAZINES, THE "TOYO KEIZAI SHIMPO" AND THE ASAHI SHIMBUN'S "ASAHI JOURNAL" HAVE ALSO RUN STORIES CHARGING HASHIMOTO WITH TAKING LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. HASHIMOTO HAS INDIGNANTLY DENIED THE CHARGES AT AN LDP DIETMEN'S MEETING, IN THE LOWER HOUSE COMMITTEE AND IN LIBEL SUITS FILED AGAINST THE TWO MAGAZINES.

4. ADDING TO THE DRAMA BUT NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EVENTS THIS WEEK WAS THE SECOND BEDSIDE QUESTIONING OF THE AILING YOSHIO KODAMA ON JULY 22. HIS QUESTIONER WAS ISAJI TANAKA, THE LDP CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER HOUSE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE. KODAMA FLATLY DENIED EVERYTHING EXCEPT THAT HE HAD BEEN A CONSULTANT TO LOCKHEED FOR SIX OR SEVEN YEARS. BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS KODAMA WAS NOT REQUIRED TO SPEAK UNDER OATH. ON JULY 23 THE JUSTICE MINISTER SAID KODAMA'S TESTIMONY WAS "LIES" AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS HAVE CALLED FOR ANOTHER QUESTIONING. THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE TO RE-SUMMON KENJI OSANO, EX-PRIMIN TANAKA'S CLOSE ASSOCIATE, FOR CLARIFICATION OF HIS FEBRUARY TESTIMONY. THE SUMMONS HAD BEEN RESISTED BY LDP COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR A WEEK.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A BUSY WEEK APPARENTLY ARRANGING OR TRYING TO ARRANGE THE SCENARIO AND TIMETABLE FOR LOCKHEED'S DENOUEMENT. HE MET TO DISCUSS LOCKHEED WITH MINFIN OHIRA ON MONDAY, AND SEPARATELY WITH NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HAJIME FUKUDA AND JUSTICE MINISTER INABA ON TUESDAY AND AGAIN WITH OHIRA AND DEPRIMIN FUKUDA ON FRIDAY. ON JULY 27 HE WILL MEET WITH ALL CONCERNED CABINET MINISTERS TO "REVIEW LOCKHEED PROGRESS."

6. COMMENT: WHILE NOTHING SPECIAL MATERIALIZED FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS THIS WEEK, LOCKHEED CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE NEWS AND THE POLITICAL SCENE IN WHICH A MOOD OF NERVOUSNESS AND ANTICI-
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PATION CONTINUES.
THE COMPARATIVE LACK OF ACTION THIS WEEK INDICATES, WE FEEL, NOT A STOPPAGE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS BUT A DELAY FOR WHICH THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE REASONS. FOR ONE THING, THERE WILL BE A GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN GUNMA PREFECTURE ON JULY 25 WHICH MIGHT WELL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CONTINUED REVELATIONS. ANOTHER REASON FOR DELAY COULD BE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DESIRE TO RECEIVE HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES' APPROVAL AT THE MEETING NOW

SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27, THEREBY SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT COMES OUT. FINALLY, MIKI MAY BE WAITING TO SEE WHETHER EVIDENCE FROM LOS ANGELES WILL BE FORTHCOMING. IN ANY CASE WE FEEL THAT THE PACE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS WILL QUICKEN SHORTLY.
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